

# Workers' Compensation Coverage for Wineries

*Some employers who are involved in the winery industry are reporting hours in the incorrect risk classification*



## What is the correct risk classification for reporting winery workers?

All winery workers are reported in classification 3702-05 *Wine making or wineries, spirituous liquor: Manufacturing*. This classification applies to all types of alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverage manufacturing and bottling operations including:

- Carbonating beverages
- Crushing and mixing of ingredients
- Fermenting
- Filling bottles, cans, kegs and other containers
- Filtering
- Labeling
- Manufacturing yeast
- Pasteurizing
- Operating gift shops at manufacturing location
- Sanitizing bottles, cans and other containers
- Incidental tasting rooms at the facilities
- Tours of facilities and premises

## Where do I report tasting room employees?

Many employers ask why they must pay the same workers' compensation rate for winery tasting room staff as they do for people working on the manufacturing line. Insurers typically classify businesses on the nature of the business for the entire operation, not the occupation of each worker. L&I follows this standard insurance practice as well. For this reason, the workers' compensation rates for wineries blend together all of the risks and hazards of the operation, including the high and low exposures, for one average rate.

If you have a tasting room or wine store away from the vineyard or winery, you may report the hours of that operation in classification 6403-07 *Stores: Wine, liquor, or soft drinks — Retail*. The multiple classification rule, WAC 296-17-31017, allows employers to report in additional risk classifications for stores at separate locations. To ensure this rule is more consistently applied, we're clarifying the classification description for wineries to explain when 6403 may also be used.

Activity	Location	Classification
Manufacturing of wine	Winery	3702-05
Vineyard operations	Vineyard	4813-00
Tasting room operations and bottle sales	Vineyard/Winery	3702-05
Tasting room operations and bottle sales	Separate location away from Winery/Vineyard	6403-07
Gift shop and souvenirs	Separate location away from Winery/Vineyard	6406-33
Full service restaurant operations	All	3905-07

## What can you do if you are not filing correctly?

Please contact your account manager at 360-902-4817. They will help you get the correct classification and help you report correctly.



Washington State Department of  
**Labor & Industries**  
*Workers' Compensation Services*

*Upon request, foreign language support and formats for persons with disabilities are available. Call 1-800-547-8367. TDD users, call 360-902-5797. L&I is an equal opportunity employer.*

# How can you control costs?

L&I offers free consultation services that can help you prevent workplace injuries, manage claims and prevent sprains and strains. Controlling workplace injuries and managing claims helps you control workers' compensation costs and retain valuable, experienced employees.

## Safety and health consultation

A Safety Consultant can review your safety programs, identify hazards, provide training, explain regulations, and inform you about safety rules that apply to your business.

A Health Consultant (Industrial Hygienist) can review your health programs, identify chemicals, noise, and other health hazards, provide training, explain regulations, and inform you about health rules that apply to your business. He or she can also conduct noise and air monitoring in your workplace.

## Risk management assistance

A Risk Management Consultant can meet with you at your business to:

- Show you how and why workplace safety makes good business sense.
- Provide data specific to your business, showing how claims can affect premiums.
- Review your claims history and trends.
- Assist you in achieving a "claim-free discount."
- Discuss benefits of claims management strategies.

## Sprains and strains prevention

A specialist in ergonomics can help you spot potential causes of sprains and strains and find ways to fix them. This results in safer and more productive workplaces. Sprain and strain injuries are the most frequent causes of workers' compensation claims and the most costly to employers in Washington State.

These services are confidential and at no cost. Schedule your appointment at [www.Lni.wa.gov/SafetyConsultants](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/SafetyConsultants).



## Retrospective rating (Retro)

Retrospective rating (Retro) is a safety incentive program offered by L&I. In Retro, you can earn a partial refund of your workers' compensation premiums if you reduce workplace injuries and lower associated claim costs. For more information go to [www.Lni.wa.gov/Retro](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/Retro).

## Stay at Work

Stay at Work is a financial incentive that encourages employers to bring their injured workers quickly and safely back to light-duty or transitional work by reimbursing them for some of their costs. Find out more at [www.Lni.wa.gov/StayAtWork](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/StayAtWork).

## Return to work planning

Use the Stay at Work Program as a starting point for your return-to-work planning.

- Develop return-to-work policies to minimize disability payments.
- Create light-duty job descriptions.

Visit our website: [www.Lni.wa.gov](http://www.Lni.wa.gov).